

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196025

STADIS/////////////////
NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XE

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - REGIONAL AFFAIRS

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/RA - ROBERT J. MARTENS

1. PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (CONFIDENTIAL
(NOFORN))

WE HAVE CLEARED THE ANNUAL IO CIRCULAR TO THE FIELD SETTING
THE STAGE FOR THIS GA AND REQUESTING POSTS TO INCLUDE
APPROACHES TO THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS ON VARIOUS AGENDA
ISSUES OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO US. ONLY TWO EA ITEMS
ARE SPECIFICALLY COVERED: KOREA AND GUAM -- BOTH IN
FAIRLY LOW-KEY FASHION. APPROPRIATE DESKS HAVE BEEN
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CONSULTED ON EACH ISSUE.

WE ARE ALSO KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE SECRETARIAT
ON THE SCHEDULE BEING DRAWN UP FOR THE VISITS OF THE
SECRETARY AND POSSIBLY OF THE PRESIDENT DURING THEIR STAYS
IN NEW YORK (THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HAS NOT YET BEEN
ANNOUNCED). WE HOPE TO BE GIVEN AN INFORMAL LOOK AT THE

PROPOSED PROGRAM BY THE END OF THIS WEEK.

2. THE US AND THE ILO (CONFIDENTIAL)

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE ILO AT ITS MEETING AUGUST 16 DEVELOPED A CONSENSUS THAT IT WOULD NOT DECIDE ON A RECOMMENDATION ABOUT OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE ILO UNTIL SOME UNSPECIFIED DATE IN OCTOBER. AT THAT TIME THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET AGAIN TO CONSIDER WHETHER OUR FRIENDS IN THE ILO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GENERATE ANY FURTHER ACTION TOWARD REFORM AND TO REVIEW ANY OTHER RELATED DEVELOPMENTS. WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT COUNTRIES HAVE MADE HIGH-LEVEL DEMARCHES URGING US NOT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO. CONCURRENTLY VARIOUS LABOR ORGANIZATIONS ABROAD HAVE URGED THE AFL-CIO TO RECONSIDER ITS VIEWS. WE CANNOT NOW PREDICT WHAT THE OCTOBER DECISION WILL BE.

3. WEATHER MODIFICATION (CONFIDENTIAL)

I ATTENDED THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NSC AD HOC GROUP ON WEATHER MODIFICATION CHAIRED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK ON AUGUST 11 TO DISCUSS POLICY TOWARD NOAA'S WEATHER MODIFICATION PROPOSALS (OPERATION STORMFURY). I REITERATED EA'S LONG-STANDING POSITION THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SUCH PROJECTS PROVIDED THAT ALL AFFECTED COUNTRIES WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEABLE AND THAT POTENTIAL LIABILITY QUESTIONS WERE RESOLVED. SINCE THE INITIAL STORMFURY PROJECT FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC COULD NOT BE REALIZED DUE TO JAPANESE AND PRC OBJECTIONS, THE FOCUS FOR STORMFURY IS NOW ON POSSIBLE PROJECTS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC IN CONJUNCTION WITH MEXICO AND IN THE CARIBBEAN. ARA HAS TAKEN A POSITION SIMILAR TO OURS. THE PRECEDENTS MAY BE IMPORTANT IN CONNECTION WITH NOAA INTEREST IN FUTURE CLOUD SEEDING EXPERIMENTS NEAR AUSTRALIA.

4. THAI TRADE UNIONS AND THE AFL-CIO (CONFIDENTIAL)

JUDGING FROM INFO WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM EMBASSY REPORTING AND FROM THE AFL-CIO IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS TO EXIST ANY LONGER LEGALLY, OR TO CARRY OUT TRADE UNION FUNCTIONS. APPROXIMATELY 58 PERCENT OF THAILAND'S TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP IS ORGANIZED IN PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS. IN ADDITION, THE REMAINING PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS SUFFER FROM SEVERE GOVERNMENTALLY IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR ACTIVITIES (REQUIREMENT OF POLICE PERMIT FOR UNION MEETINGS, STRIKE BANS, ETC.) WHICH MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT LEGAL TRADE UNION ACTIVITY ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT AAFLI
WILL BE ABLE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY IN THAILAND. THIS

PROSPECT IS OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO THE AFL-CIO, WHICH
HAS LONG SOUGHT TO SUPPORT THE STRUGGLING TRADE UNION
MOVEMENT IN THAILAND. THERE ARE ALSO OBVIOUS HUMAN
RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS. WE WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH
THE AFL-CIO ON THIS ISSUE AND ARE CONSIDERING POSSIBLE
FOLLOW-UPS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: STAFF:AP
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: faff8a58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1559977
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - REGIONAL AFFAIRS TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE FROM: EA/RA - ROBERT J. MARTENS
TAGS: PDEV, XE
To: EA POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/faff8a58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009